

II. Remarks

A. Introduction.

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 2-3 are pending in this application. Claim 2 is independent. Claim 2 has been amended to further clarify the formulae. Claims 1 and 4-16 have been canceled in a previous Amendment. No new matter has been added.

B. Allowable subject matter.

The Examiner has deemed Claims 2 and 3 allowable over the cited references. (Office Action, page 3.) Applicants acknowledge the allowance of these claims and thank the Examiner therefor.

C. Claim objections.

Claims 2 and 3 stand objected to for the informalities mentioned in the Office Action. Applicants traverse the objection. Nevertheless, solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, Claim 2 has been amended to comply with the suggestions A-D in the Office Action. Thus, the objection has been obviated and Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

D. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

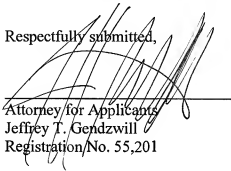
Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for the reasons set forth in the Office Action. Applicants traverse the rejection in view of the amended Claims. Claim 3 has been amended to recite lithium rhodizonate, potassium rhodizonate or copper rhodizonate, or their *oxidation* products. Claim 2 recites oxidation compounds of aforesaid salts of formulae (I) to (XVII). Thus, Claim 3 is definite and is in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

E. Conclusion.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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